

**EXHIBIT 7**

**Brief filed by Regional Solicitor in the remanded agency proceedings, entitled “Reply Brief”, joining in Leisnoi’s and Koniag’s Briefing**

JAMES R. MOTHERSHEAD  
 Assistant Regional Solicitor  
 Office of the Regional Solicitor  
 Alaska Region  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 4230 University Drive, Suite 300  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4626  
 Telephone: (907) 271-4131 / FAX: (907) 271-4143

Rec'd WTS  
 3/29/99

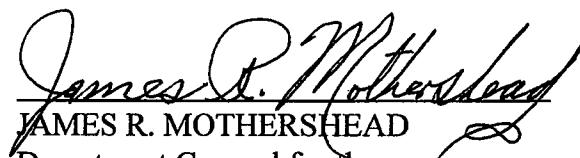
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS  
 Hearings Division  
 139 East South Temple, Suite 600  
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

OMAR STRATMAN,	)	IBLA 96-152
	)	
Protestant,	)	No. A76-0132 CV (JKS)
	)	
v.	)	Challenge to the eligibility of
	)	Woody Island as a Native village
LEISNOI, INC.,	)	under Section 11(b)(3) of the
	)	Alaska Native Claims Settlement
Respondent,	)	Act, 43 U.S.C. § 1610(b)(3) (1994)
	)	
KONIAG, INC.,	)	
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	)	
	)	
Intervenors	)	<u>REPLY BRIEF</u>
	)	

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Department of the Interior, joins Leisnoi, Inc., Respondent, in its contention, including the underlying legal analysis, set forth in its Reply Brief that Woody Island's certification as an eligible Native village under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [43 U.S.C. § 1601, et seq. (1988)] was legislatively confirmed or ratified by Congress's enactment of Section 1427 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of

December 2, 1980 (94 Stat. 2371, 2518). Department Counsel is familiar with Leisnoi's position on the above issue, and BIA's position on such issue is basically the same as Leisnoi's.

DATED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1999, at Anchorage, Alaska.



JAMES R. MOTHERSHEAD

Department Counsel for the  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

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 Alaska Region  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 4230 University Drive, Suite 300  
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<hr/> KONIAG, INC.,	)	
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	)	
	)	
Intervenors	)	<u>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</u>
	)	

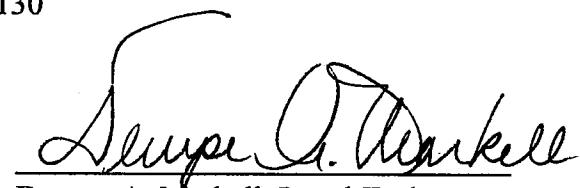
The undersigned hereby certifies that she is an employee in the Office of the Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region, and is a person of such age and discretion as to be competent to serve papers. That on March 26, 1999, she sent the original of the REPLY BRIEF to the Office of Hearings and Appeals in Salt Lake City, Utah, with a copy of the same to the following by certified mail return receipt requested:

Certified Mail

Michael J. Schneider, Esq. 880 N Street, Suite 202 Anchorage, AK 99501	Edgar Paul Boyko, Esq. Edgar Paul Boyko & Assoc. 711 H Street, Suite 510 Anchorage, AK 99501	R. Collin Middleton, Esq. Middleton & Timme 421 West 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 250 Anchorage, AK 99501
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John R. Fitzgerald  
McAlpine, Peuler & Cozad  
701 South Peters Street, Suite 300  
New Orleans, LA 70130

DATED: March 26, 1999



Denyse A. Markell  
Denyse A. Markell, Legal Tech.